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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY AIDS TIMBER INDUSTRY

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHERS SCOUT TIMBER FLOATERS -- Lesnaya Promyshlennost', No 7, Jul 50

Successful fulfillment of the timber-floating plan depends to a great extent on the effectiveness of supervision exercised over floating operations.

Photographing floating processes from the air permits the supervisor of a floating trust, floating office, or roadstead to see the whole day-by-day picture of floating operations on the river. The evidence of the photographs enables him to take immediate measures for eliminating apparent deficiencies.

The 1949 experiment of applying aerial photography to timber-floating work carried out by the Forestry Aviation Trust in the area of Vychegdosplav (Vychegda Floating) Trust has pointed out how helpful aerial photography can be in promoting floating production.

Aerial photographs were made during the spring high-water season of the Vychegda River from Syktyvkar to Ust'-Kulom, of the Sysola River from Syktyvkar to Kaygorodka, and of other tributaries for distances of 20 kilometers from their mouths. On the basis of these photographs, Vychegdosplav Trust set up a program of improvement measures which permitted earlier and better preparation for the floating season.

In the interest of observing and controlling the progress of freely floating timber on the Ust'-Kulom--Syktyvkar sector of the Vychegda River, one or two selective photographs were taken every 10 kilometers. The photographs were given to the trust on the same day that they were taken.

On the basis of these photographs, Vychegdosplav Trust supervisors were able to judge the work being done at the roadsteads and jam areas, the condition of the booms, etc. Since they received photographs daily, they were precisely informed as to the situation prevailing in all sectors and thus were able to control release of timber from the tributaries into the main stream.

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The roadsteads were also photographed at selected times, so that at the end of each month an aerial photographic inventory could be made. From the photographs, it was possible to determine closely how many rafts had been readied for movement.

More than once, aerial photographs were the basic evidence in ascertaining the reasons for failure to meet the raft-tugging plans. For example, there were several instances when by exhibiting photographs, Vychedgosplav Trust successfully proved that tugs were idle due to a lack of rafts or that nonmovement of rafts was due to the tardy arrival of tugs.

When floating operations are carried out over a large territory, supervisors and specialists of floating organizations are unable to oversee operations visually and to make on-the-spot adjustments. But with the aid of aerial photographs, they are able to see everything of interest throughout the entire territory of activity and are able to exercise better supervision. The experiment proved that when an unsatisfactory condition has been reported at some floating center it is possible to have a plan crew photograph this center and have the pictures developed within a few hours.

During the course of the floating season, about 400,000 hectares of area were photographed. Aerial photographs were made in varying scales from 1:10,000 to 1:3,000.

It is no secret, however, that in some logging trusts piles of photographs are lying unused, because the workers do not know how to interpret them. It is also strange that the Central Scientific Research Institute for Timber Floating which above all others should be interested in extracting information from aerial photographs, has thus far not taken part in this important matter.

In 1950, aerial photographing of floating operations will be carried out in the basins of the Vychedga and Severnaya (Northern) Dvina rivers. -- G. N. Poldushkin, Chief, Forestry Aviation Section of the Air Force

BEGIN AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE OF TIMBER RESOURCES -- Komsomol'skaya Pravda, No 147, 22 Jun 50

Scientific expeditions and forest management groups are doing a great deal of work in inspecting and calculating the timber resources of Tyumen' Oblast. An expedition from the Leningrad Forestry Aviation Trust will spend half a year in the northern regions. During this time, the expedition will study about 2.5 million hectares of forest and estimate the amount and quality of the timber. At present, forest management groups are working on the Ob', Sos'va, and Dem'yanka rivers.

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